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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Fortieth session
Vienna, 18-27 March 1997
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

ILLICIT DEMAND FOR DRUGS

Statement** submitted by the World Organization of the Scout Movement a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.7/1997/1.

**This document has not been edited.

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The following non-governmental organizations and NGO-networks are co-sponsors of this statement:

- Participants of Working Group 7 of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Vienna, November 1996);
  - World Leisure and Recreation Association
  - Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY)
  - National Youth Committee, St. Vincent
  - Dominica National Youth Council
  - European Blue Cross
  - Swiss Youth Council
  - Uniao Estadual dos Estudantes
  - Lesotho Youth Federation
  - European Good Templar Youth Federation (EGTYF)
  - Austrian Federal Youth Council (Akzente Salzburg)
  - Experiment in International Living
  - Urban Courage Coalition, Mexico
  - Organicacion Juvenil REU, Mexico
- Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs (global NGO network with some 200 member NGOs and affiliates worldwide)

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to work towards implementing the existing international drug control treaties as well as the 1987 Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline (CMO) of Future Activities in Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the 1990 Global Plan of Action;

Acknowledging the joint efforts of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, its Secretariat and the relevant Expert Group in developing a „Draft declaration on the Guiding Principles of reduction of Illicit Demand for Drugs", which is *inter alia* aimed at ensuring a comprehensive, balanced and coordinated approach in illicit demand for drugs, encouraging collaboration and cooperation of all levels in society;

Appreciating the joint efforts of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its Secretariat to assist the Member States in the implementation of the relevant articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (GA Resolution A/Res./44/25);

Drawing attention to the relevant section of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (para. 73 to 85, GA Resolution A/Res./50/81);

Welcoming the increasing acknowledgement by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the work being done by non-governmental organizations in the field of drug abuse prevention (as for example in Doc. E/CN.7/1996/3 where the Executive Director invites *the Commission to consider how UNDCP could further develop an active dialogue with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to encourage their active participation in drug abuse control programmes and projects*);

Recalling Resolution 39/1 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (subsequently General Assembly Resolution A/Res/51/64) which calls for a Special Session of the General Assembly *devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities*;

Further recalling the spirit and fruitful cooperation of the representative of the United Nations Drugs Control Programme with representatives of national and international youth NGOs within the Working Group on „Youth and Drug Abuse" at the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Vienna in November 1996;

The World Organization of the Scout Movement, on behalf of ALL participants of the Working Group on „Youth and Drug Abuse" of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System,

1. has the pleasure of submitting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the annexed recommendations „Towards a Vienna Declaration on Youth and Drug Abuse", adopted by the participants of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at its second session in November 1996;
2. requests that ALL Member States, as well as UN Agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will seriously take note of the young people's recommendations contained therein;
3. urges ALL Member States, as well as UN Agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to act accordingly;
4. hopes that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will duly take the results of the Working Group on „Youth and Drug Abuse" as a concrete example of how young people can positively contribute to the work of the United Nations in general and the efforts in the field of drug abuse prevention in particularly.

Towards a Vienna Declaration on Youth and Drug Abuse

We, the participants of the Working Group 7 on „Youth and Drug Abuse" at the second session of World Youth Forum of the United Nations, coming from youth NGOs and youth -related NGOs of all five UN regions and from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP),

Recalling the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the 1990 Global Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the principles of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY2000), especially para. 73. through para. 85. concerning the field of drug abuse,

Emphasising that - although also acknowledging the importance of treatment and rehabilitation - drug abuse prevention programmes should be given priority,

Recommend, that the United Nations, in co-operation with youth, NGOs, and IGOs,

1. Ensure that hopelessness, anxiety and boredom, as well as difficult economic circumstances, are no longer ignored - these being the main reasons for young people to become drug addicts;
2. Encourage its Member States to promote peer group projects as a highly recommended method in the area of primary prevention, taking into account different priorities for children (6 to 12 years) and young people (13 to 24 years).
3. Initiate and strengthen „youth friendly" awareness programmes which provide young people with useful alternatives to prevent their becoming addicted to drugs (such as leisure time activities; cultural facilities, adequate and sufficient schooling, training and employment);
4. Advise its Member States to consider a positive role for mass media and other forms of communication (e.g. media should stress the dangers of drug abuse rather than the benefits);

5. Spread knowledge about the UN system and its functioning, especially with regard to international drug policy, including information about existing international treaties;
6. Create more concrete influence for youth NGOs in UN decision making bodies, including the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
7. Work together towards the establishing of global networking in the field of youth drug abuse prevention, including young people, youth NGOs, IGOs and relevant UN agencies;
8. Join forces and use already existing networking systems for lobbying the governments;
9. Promote appropriate training for drug abuse prevention professionals and training programmes for those who interact with children and young people;
10. Support the creation of training manuals with the help of additional specialists from regional institutions, independent research groups and individual experts;
11. Encourage the establishment of national laws which provide that an average of 10 percent of the total national sale of legal drugs be dedicated to fund joint drug abuse prevention projects;
12. Work towards the realisation of projects which were agreed upon by the Working Group on „Youth and Drug Abuse" of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.